United Nations A/67/157

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 June 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Item 105 of the preliminary list*
International drug control

International cooperation against the world drug problem

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/183, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of that resolution. The report provides an overview of the world drug situation as well as an overview of the implementation of the mandates relating to international drug control by Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, other parts of the United Nations system and relevant international organizations.

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I. Introduction

1. At its sixty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[1] in which Member States reaffirmed their commitment to ensure that all aspects of demand reduction, supply reduction and international cooperation were addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States.

2. In its resolution 66/183, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", the General Assembly reiterated its call upon States to take, in a timely manner, the measures necessary to implement the actions and attain the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and also recommended that the Economic and Social Council devote one of its high level segments to a theme related to the world drug problem and that the Assembly hold a special session to address the world drug problem.

3. During its sixty-sixth session, the General Assembly also held a thematic debate on the topic "Drugs and crime as a threat to development", on the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, on 26 June 2012. The purpose of the debate was to address the existing challenges in mainstreaming drug control and crime prevention into development initiatives and to identify ways of improving the international community's coordinated efforts to address the adverse impact of drugs and crime on development. The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) addressed the Assembly on that occasion and launched the *World Drug Report 2012*.[2]

4. The present report, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/183, provides an overview of the world drug situation as well as an overview of the implementation of the mandates relating to international drug control by Member States, UNODC, other parts of the United Nations system and relevant international organizations. It follows the structure of the Political Declaration and the Plan of Action in highlighting the priorities followed by UNODC and Member States, including through the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which held its fifty-fifth session in March 2012.

II. Overview of the world drug situation

5. The information presented in the present chapter is based on data submitted by Member States through the annual report questionnaire, concerning action taken to

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[2] Available from www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/WDR.html.

implement the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action,[3] and on data contained in the *World Drug Report 2011*.

Illicit production of and trafficking in opium

6. In 2011, UNODC and its national counterparts conducted opium surveys in Afghanistan and South-East Asia.

7. A general decrease in seizures in 2010 occurred in most of the countries supplied by Afghan opiates, and a heroin shortage was observed in some European countries in 2010 and 2011, coinciding with a large drop in opium production in Afghanistan due to plant disease. In 2011, illicit opium production returned to high levels. The total area under opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2011 was estimated at 131,000 hectares, a 7 per cent increase compared to 2010. Some 95 per cent of total cultivation took place in nine provinces in the southern and western regions, which include the most insecure provinces in the country. The number of poppy-free provinces decreased from 20 in 2010 to 17 in 2011.

8. In South-East Asia a 16 per cent increase in the area cultivated could be observed in 2011 compared to the previous year. The largest part of opium poppy cultivation in South-East Asia takes place in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand, with a total area of 47,917 hectares in 2011. Overall, opium poppy cultivation in the region has doubled since 2006. Myanmar, the largest opium poppy-growing country in the region, saw an increase of 14 per cent, from 38,100 hectares in 2010 to 43,600 hectares in 2011, thus accounting for 21.1 per cent of global opium poppy cultivation. The Lao People's Democratic Republic accounted for 2 per cent in 2011; illicit cultivation in the country increased from 3,000 hectares in 2010 to 4,100 hectares in 2011. In Thailand, cultivation decreased from 289 hectares in 2010 to 217 hectares in 2011.

9. Data on seizures and heroin use suggest that heroin markets were expanding in some parts of Africa and Asia.

Illicit manufacture of and trafficking in cocaine

10. In 2011, UNODC and its national counterparts conducted coca surveys in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

11. Available data on cultivation, yield and trafficking indicate an overall decline in global manufacture of cocaine, prompted by a major decline in cocaine manufacture in Colombia in the five-year period 2006-2010. A sizeable shift has taken place, as coca bush cultivation and coca production increased in the same period in the other two coca-producing countries, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Peru, which have become important sources for the illicit markets in Brazil and the Southern Cone countries. There is also some evidence indicating a shift in the European market towards Bolivian and Peruvian cocaine.

[3] At its fifty-fifth session the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had before it for its consideration the report of the Executive Director on action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, which contains information based on the first round of responses provided by Member States to the annual report questionnaire (parts I and II). Such a report is to be prepared on a biennial basis, pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 53/16.

Illicit production of and trafficking in cannabis

12. Cannabis is the world's most widely used illicit substance. Cannabis seizure and eradication data suggest that the production of cannabis herb (marijuana) is increasingly widespread, but the often localized, small-scale nature of cannabis cultivation and production make it very difficult to assess. New data on larger-scale global production of cannabis resin (hashish) are available only for Afghanistan, for which UNODC and its national counterpart conducted a third cannabis survey in 2011.

Illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances, and the increasing diversion of precursors

13. The UNODC publication *Amphetamines and Ecstasy: 2011 Global ATS Assessment*[4] showed that the situation regarding amphetamine-type stimulants remains a significant global threat and noted that the emergence of new psychoactive substances presents myriad challenges to authorities. After cannabis, amphetamine-type stimulants are the second most widely used class of drugs worldwide. They are now ranked in the top three drugs of use in some countries in East and South-East Asia,[5] even displacing traditional drugs. Their illicit manufacture has been reported from all regions of the world, including Latin America,[6] and spread to West Africa in 2011.

14. An emerging trend in the illicit manufacture of ATS is the replacement of traditional precursors with viable substitutes and physically modified forms not under international control, to circumvent controls and law enforcement efforts. The Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme *Global SMART Update*[7] provided regular brief reporting on emerging patterns and trends of the fast-changing global synthetic drug situation, including unusual drug or precursor seizures, methods and chemicals used for clandestine manufacture, new trafficking groups or routes, and changes in legislation to address the problem of synthetic drugs.

15. The appearance of non-controlled synthetic substances in established markets for amphetamine-type stimulants, often sold as "bath salts" or "plant food", has been observed in recent years. Substances such as mephedrone are associated with health problems and even fatalities. Synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists with cannabis-like effects are also available in most regions of the world. A report providing a comprehensive overview of the issue of synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists with a focus on compounds that have surfaced in herbal products as psychoactive adulterants was shared with the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence of the World Health Organization (WHO). That report, "Synthetic cannabinoids in herbal products",[8] also provides information on pharmacological

[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.XI.13.

[5] See UNODC, *Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and Other Drugs: Asia and the Pacific, 2011 — A Report from the Global SMART Programme*.

[6] See UNODC, "Amphetamine-type stimulants in Latin America: preliminary assessment report 2011".

[7] Available from www.unodc.org/unodc/en/scientists/smart.html.

[8] Available from www.unodc.org/unodc/en/scientists/synthetic-cannabinoids-in-herbal-products.html.

activity, potential toxicity and recommendations regarding the legal handling of this new phenomenon. At its fifty-fifth session the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted resolution 55/1, entitled "Promoting international cooperation in responding to the challenges posed by new psychoactive substances".

III. International cooperation against the world drug problem

A. Action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

16. At its fifty-fifth session the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted 12 resolutions in relation to issues of international drug control. In resolution 55/3, entitled "One hundredth anniversary of the International Opium Convention", the Commission reaffirmed that the international drug control conventions, as well as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and other relevant international instruments, constituted the international framework for countering drug trafficking and transnational organized crime. The Commission further urged Member States that had not yet done so to consider taking measures to ratify or accede to those instruments and to adopt appropriate measures to effectively implement their provisions at the national level. The Commission also adopted resolution 55/6, on the development of an international electronic import and export authorization system for licit trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and resolution 55/11, entitled "Follow-up to the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan", in which it called upon Member States, in cooperation with UNODC, the International Narcotics Control Board and other competent international organizations, to promote the full implementation of the Vienna Declaration adopted by that Ministerial Conference, including, as appropriate, by means of facilitating partnerships with the private sector and civil society.

17. Two round tables were held at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission. At the round table on counter-narcotics efforts and the principle of common and shared responsibility: opportunities and challenges, it was reiterated that the world drug problem remained a common and shared responsibility that required effective and increased international cooperation and that there was a need for a balanced and holistic approach to combating it through national, regional and multilateral efforts, while maintaining respect for differences in the policies, ideologies and situations of countries.

18. At the round table on measures to prevent the diversion of substances frequently used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances from domestic distribution channels, including by strengthening partnerships with the private sector, participants emphasized that vigilance to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals to the manufacture of heroin, cocaine and amphetamine-type stimulants remained a priority of Member States. Member States were encouraged to support collaboration at the national level between the public and private sector players that had a legitimate role in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

19. During the session, speakers took note of the stabilization of the level of use of cocaine and opioids in North America and Western Europe, and expressed concerns

about the increase in the non-medical use of prescription drugs and the use of new psychoactive substances that were not under international control and that were often distributed through the Internet. Speakers also expressed concern at the increase in the use of amphetamine-type stimulants, cannabis and cocaine in Asia and Africa and at the increase in the use of drugs among youth and women.

20. A number of speakers reiterated the commitment of their countries to regional initiatives against illicit trafficking, such as the Paris Pact initiative, the Group of Eight initiative targeting transatlantic cocaine trafficking, the Triangular Initiative targeting trafficking in heroin from Afghanistan and the UNODC Container Control Programme, as well as the Central American Security Strategy. Many speakers called for assistance for transit States whose territories were used in the movement of illicit drugs onward to consumer markets. It was noted that many transit States were now witnessing an increase in drug abuse and related public health problems as a result of spillover from the transit of illegal shipments.

21. The International Narcotics Control Board presented its annual report for 2011[9] and its report for 2011 on the implementation of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.[10] The annual report highlighted in a thematic chapter the challenge of addressing the drug problem in marginalized communities and reviewed examples of successful measures to address the problem. Both reports made a number of specific recommendations to Member States and international organizations to improve the control of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals.

B. Action by the subsidiary bodies

22. Five meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were held in 2011: the Ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Vienna from 28 June to 1 July; the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Addis Ababa from 5 to 9 September; the Twenty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santiago from 3 to 7 October; the Thirty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Agra, India, from 22 to 25 November; and the forty-sixth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Vienna from 19 to 22 December.

23. Each of the subsidiary bodies addressed drug law enforcement issues of priority in its region and reviewed progress made in the implementation of recommendations made at previous sessions.[11]

[9] *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.XI.5).

[10] *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2011 on the Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.XI.4).

[11] See E/CN.7/2012/5.

IV. Demand reduction and related measures

24. Within its thematic programme addressing health and human development vulnerabilities in the context of drugs and crime, UNODC has increased its emphasis on compassionate and ethical demand reduction, rehabilitation and related health-protection measures as part of its efforts to put a health-centred and humanitarian approach at the heart of drug control policy.

A. Reducing drug abuse and its health and social consequences

25. UNODC continued its joint work with WHO on improving services for the treatment and care of drug dependence worldwide. The Office supported the implementation of a global strategy for knowledge dissemination, contributing significantly to the transfer of skills and good practices through training on methodologies based on scientific evidence in the field of treatment of drug dependence that are aimed at rehabilitation and reintegration, spreading good clinical practice and promoting high-quality clinical standards among services providing treatment for drug dependence in more than 25 countries.

26. UNODC supported treatment interventions in 30 countries that were aimed at increasing the availability of treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration facilities in order to reach those in need, including the most marginalized. Interventions encouraged participation and coordination between different sectors and an appropriate balance between specialized services and primary care.

27. UNODC launched a programme to improve and expand the coordinated response of public institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to children exposed to drugs at a very young age, with the aim of preventing drug use, treating drug dependence and facilitating productive reintegration into society. NGOs having expertise in implementing drug prevention and treatment interventions with children and families in Afghanistan will be involved. A global expansion of activities has been initiated, starting in West Africa and South Asia.

28. The UNODC programme on family skills training in drug abuse prevention was expanded to cover 12 countries in Central Asia, South-Eastern Europe and Latin America. Plans are under way for a further expansion, particularly in Eastern Africa. Trained facilitators work with families and their children on improving family cohesion, the communication of family values and the monitoring of children's activities. The evaluation of the activities has demonstrated statistically significant positive changes in the family dynamics that are protective factors against drug use and other risky behaviours, such as truancy, poor academic achievement and aggression.

29. UNODC initiated a process of developing international standards on drug use prevention with a view to publishing the standards in late 2012. The standards will provide Member States with advice on how to establish an effective drug prevention system, including on the question of which policies and interventions to choose to effectively prevent drug use and promote healthy and safe lifestyles, particularly among youth. The ultimate goal is to develop a common, agreed basis for prevention work by defining the policies, programmes and objectives that are based on scientific evidence. More than 40 leading researchers, policymakers and

representatives of international organizations have been mobilized to participate in the process.

30. UNODC started the Youth Initiative, aimed at mobilizing and connecting children aged between 14 and 18 throughout the world so that they may become active prevention agents in their communities. A web page (www.unodc.org/youth) and a Facebook page were created and are already connecting more than 700 groups globally. The Initiative was officially launched at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, during which participating youth shared their experiences in responding to drug use in their schools and communities, as well as their personal commitment to contribute to the Youth Initiative.

B. Access to treatment, health care and social services, including prevention of HIV/AIDS and other drug-related diseases

31. In over 90 countries worldwide, UNODC is responding to HIV/AIDS as it relates to drug use and in prison settings, in line with its mandate. The support provided is based on scientific evidence and in conformity with the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users*. The activities have been geared towards strengthening national capacity to address the stigma and discrimination linked to HIV and AIDS; scaling up delivery of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, including monitoring and evaluation of those services; and increasing their coverage and sustainability.

32. UNODC has advocated and provided training and technical support for the development of human rights-based, gender-responsive and equitable AIDS policies and programmes, including assistance in the development of national strategic plans on HIV/AIDS for 2011-2015. In partnership with the World Bank, UNODC has contributed towards the development of the AIDS Strategy and Action Plan service and to the increased economic evidence base by implementing cost, impact and policy analyses regarding the key interventions for people who inject drugs.

33. UNODC has strengthened HIV policies and improved programmes for women who use drugs and provided support to remove barriers to access to comprehensive HIV services. Support for expanding the provision of gender-sensitive HIV services in communities and prisons has been provided through projects in several States.

34. In partnership with civil society organizations, UNODC has conducted large-scale advocacy and training activities, and has implemented community-level campaigns on stigma and discrimination. The outcomes of those activities include increased accessibility and quality of community-based HIV services for people who inject drugs, for example in South Asia (Bangladesh and Pakistan). In Central Asia, several States have taken legislative action to eliminate discrimination against drug users and prisoners so as to improve their access to HIV services, with support from UNODC.

35. UNODC has trained, in collaboration with relevant partners, over 500 government officials, members of civil society and prison staff in improving referral and access to harmonized HIV and tuberculosis services in communities,

prisons, drug dependence treatment centres and immigration detention settings, for example, in Afghanistan, Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde, Indonesia, Mozambique, Namibia, the Russian Federation, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda and Zambia, and in Central Asia.

36. UNODC has established and strengthened comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment and care services for Afghan refugee drug users in Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, and for returnees in Afghanistan. The activities have included training for NGO and law enforcement staff and the provision of key HIV services for people who inject drugs in the border area between Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, including support for night shelters and drop-in centres and outreach work to facilitate the provision of HIV services.

37. UNODC has continued to develop, document, translate, adapt and disseminate policy and programmatic tools, guidelines and best practices based on scientific evidence related to HIV prevention, treatment and care for people who use drugs, for prison settings and for victims of trafficking in human beings and those at risk of being trafficked. UNODC has built capacities in monitoring and evaluation by means of national workshops and technical consultations.

38. UNODC has also supported legal and policy reviews as they relate to prison settings, people who inject drugs and people vulnerable to trafficking in persons, and has supported the adaptation of legislation, policies and strategies for equitable access to HIV prevention, treatment and care services. It has also promoted and provided technical support to address the occupational health of law enforcement personnel with regard to HIV and has built up the capacity of law enforcement staff to provide comprehensive, human rights-based and gender-responsive HIV services based on scientific evidence.

39. In several States, legislative and policy analyses and reviews supported by UNODC have contributed to the implementation of legal reforms related to services for drug users. In Estonia, Lithuania and Romania, the projects implemented by UNODC have contributed to improving policies and the legal environment for HIV prevention services in prisons and to increasing access to HIV prevention services for those in prison and in other closed settings. In El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, the prison assessment supported by UNODC has initiated the process of reforming the penitentiary system while taking into account the needs of prisoners for HIV services.

V. Supply reduction and related measures

40. UNODC provides technical assistance to requesting Member States to build the capacity of law enforcement and judicial authorities, improve border control and counter the laundering of proceeds of crime. Given the close links between illicit drug trafficking and the activities of transnational organized criminal groups, UNODC assistance is based on the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Through the Container Control Programme, UNODC and the World Customs Organization have established dedicated, specialized inter-agency container-profiling units (joint port control units) in the principal ports and container terminals of Member States and trained

their personnel to identify, target and interdict sea containers. Alternative livelihood programmes also serve as an important component in strategies to reduce supply.

A. Regional and international cooperation in countering the world drug problem, including assistance to African States

41. Regarding the assistance to African States in addressing health problems and raising awareness of the dangers associated with the abuse of all drugs, in accordance with Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 54/14, which was complemented by a follow-up resolution adopted by the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, UNODC has continued to support African countries in comprehensively addressing challenges pertaining to drugs and organized crime.

42. UNODC has continued to work in cooperation with the African Union (AU) Commission to implement a joint project aimed at supporting the implementation of the AU Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention 2007-2012. UNODC will assist in the renewal and extension of the AU Plan of Action beyond 2012, to ensure a sustained political and operational framework to combat drugs and crime on the continent.

43. UNODC has supported the development of regional programmes for West Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa and North Africa, all of which are developed in close cooperation with the respective regional economic communities. At the national level, UNODC supports the implementation of national integrated programmes, which constitute building blocks to combat drugs, crime and terrorism:

(a) In West Africa, within the West Africa Coast Initiative, UNODC works in partnership with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, the United Nations Office for West Africa, the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat and the International Criminal Police Organization to support the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States Regional Action Plan to Address the Growing Problem of Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa for the period 2008-2011, mainly through the establishment of transnational crime units in four post-conflict settings: Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone;

(b) In North Africa, UNODC has been implementing the regional programme "Promoting good practices and networking for reducing demand for and harm from drugs", with a focus on Egypt and Morocco. The six main thematic areas of operation under the programme are: community-based treatment using motivational interviewing; social reintegration and sustained recovery management; outreach approaches used in the area of drug demand reduction and harm reduction; prison-based programmes for HIV and drug use prevention and care services; life skills drug prevention in schools; and pharmacologically assisted drug treatment such as opioid substitution treatment. The programme is aimed at empowering regional capacities to cover a wide spectrum of activities to reduce the demand for as well as the harm caused by drugs;

(c) In East Africa, UNODC also supports the establishment of transnational crime units. UNODC has also been actively building the capacity of health-care professionals and NGO workers in Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Seychelles,

Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Between 2011 and early 2012, more than 1,000 practitioners were trained in drug dependence treatment;

(d) UNODC worked throughout 2011 with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) secretariat and experts from all SADC member States to develop and agree on a five-year regional programme to make the region safer from drugs and crime. In line with the objectives and areas of intervention reflected in the SADC strategic development plans, the regional programme focuses on three interdependent areas of work: (i) countering illicit trafficking, organized crime and terrorism; (ii) criminal justice and integrity; and (iii) drug abuse prevention, treatment and care for people who use drugs, including injecting drug users and in prison settings.

44. UNODC launched its regional programme for South-Eastern Europe 2012-2015 on 23 May 2012 in Vienna. Costed at an estimated $15 million, the programme focuses on interventions against illicit drug trafficking along the Balkan route, the "southern corridor" for heroin trafficking from Afghanistan towards Western countries, and is aimed at new partnerships and intraregional cooperation between West and Central Asian countries and the Balkan region.

45. A new programme framework for the Caribbean region will be finalized in 2012 with a view to beginning its implementation in 2013. A Central American regional programme for 2013-2015 is to be developed by the end of 2012 in close consultation with the countries involved, with a view to starting the implementation of activities in 2013. The programmes will be aligned with regional and national policies and priorities and will promote ownership by partner countries. UNODC also continued negotiations with Brazil and Mexico to transform field offices into liaison and partnership offices.

46. In the context of the regional programme framework for East Asia and the Pacific for the period 2009-2012, UNODC continued to promote and contribute to the implementation of the Subregional Action Plan on Drug Control under the 1993 memorandum of understanding on drug control for the Greater Mekong subregion countries. UNODC also continued to participate as an observer in two Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) forums: the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters and the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime. UNODC and ASEAN share the concerns about the worsening trends regarding opium and amphetamine-type stimulants.

47. UNODC activities in South Asian countries have focused on HIV prevention among drug users, including in prisons, and on drug law enforcement. UNODC has established a platform of information exchange and cooperation with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Joint technical cooperation activities were carried out in drug law enforcement and drug use/HIV prevention in selected SAARC countries. A revision of the UNODC-SAARC memorandum of understanding is under consideration. A regional programme for South Asia is currently under development, and is planned to be finalized in 2012.

48. UNODC has been implementing the regional programmes for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, which were launched in Vienna on 7 December 2011. The UNODC regional programmes are the key delivery mechanisms for the implementation of the counter-narcotics confidence-building measure, approved through the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and

Stable Afghanistan, and are contributing to capacity-building for Afghanistan and the region beyond 2014. At the national level, UNODC supports capacity-building in the mandated areas through the country programmes of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan and through a subregional programme for Central Asia.

B. Sustainable crop control strategies targeting the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

49. UNODC redoubled its efforts in addressing illicit crop cultivation through development-oriented drug control programmes in Afghanistan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Peru.

50. An opium risk assessment was conducted in Afghanistan in early 2012, indicating the strong association between insecurity, lack of agricultural assistance and opium cultivation. Villages with a low level of security and that had not received agricultural assistance in the previous year were significantly more likely to grow poppy than villages that had good security and had been targeted by an anti-poppy awareness campaign.

51. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, UNODC focused on creating rice banks, irrigation schemes and access to roads, introduced improved high-yield crops and trained community leaders in the management of microcredit programmes. As a result, communities increased food production and started to move away from monoculture and towards diversified seasonal and non-seasonal crops.

52. In Myanmar, UNODC modified its development assistance strategy to focus on health and small-scale agriculture to ensure food security, in the light of Government-led eradication activities. Activities include both immediate food support and a phased longer-term approach oriented to broad-scale rural development focusing on food security and poverty reduction.

53. In Peru, UNODC helped farmer-led small business enterprises to make gains on the international market, with sales exceeding $114 million in 2011. The export of agricultural products improved the social and economic situation of families in several coca bush-growing valleys, where the income of households that previously farmed coca bush reached $5,779 in 2011, compared to $1,366 in 2000. In cooperation with the Government, deforestation and the overexploitation of natural resources were also addressed.

54. In Colombia, within the framework of the Forest Warden Families Programme, UNODC assisted in poverty reduction and environmental protection through agricultural projects and forest conservation. As a result, many families acquired land titles, vast areas of coca plantations were voluntarily eradicated and large amounts of carbon dioxide were sequestered.

55. With a view to fostering South-South cooperation, the Government of Thailand, in association with the Government of Peru, organized the International Seminar/Workshop on Sustainable Alternative Development, held in Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 6 to 11 November 2011. The outcome consisted of

inputs for the draft international guiding principles on alternative development.[12] Those inputs will be considered further at a high-level international conference on alternative development to be held in Peru in November 2012. At its fifty-fifth session the Commission on Narcotic Drugs adopted a resolution on follow-up on the proposal to organize an international workshop and conference on alternative development, as well as a resolution on the development of strategies on special marketing regimes for alternative development, including preventive alternative development.

VI. Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

56. Legal and operational obstacles inherent in many domestic frameworks impede the ability of some Member States to effectively implement action to counter money-laundering, in accordance with the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

57. In its resolutions 65/232 and 66/181 the General Assembly urged UNODC to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism through its Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism. The Global Programme has provided in-depth training to national law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges and financial intelligence unit personnel from more than 100 jurisdictions. It has encouraged the further elaboration of policies to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism and has also developed and shared relevant sources of information, databases and good practices at the national, regional and international levels. During 2011, UNODC delivered capacity-building events, organized international conferences and trained over 1,000 private and public officers. It continued providing support to the asset forfeiture mechanism for South America in the context of the Financial Action Task Force of South America against Money-Laundering, as well as the subregional Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of Southern Africa.

58. Difficulties also remain in implementing practical measures to ensure effective and expeditious judicial cooperation, due to differences between legal systems, delays and procedural and language problems. Member States should increase their efforts regarding mutual legal assistance, extradition and the protection of victims and witnesses, as well as in the prevention of trafficking by sea. To assist Member States, UNODC has developed a handbook on mutual legal assistance and extradition and a handbook on international cooperation for the purposes of confiscation, which will soon become available online.

VII. Data collection and research

59. UNODC continued to support countries in improving data availability and is developing training material for the new version of the annual report questionnaire, parts of which have already been used to build the capacity of experts from

[12] See E/CN.7/2012/8, annex.

South-East Asian and Paris Pact countries. Further training courses are foreseen in Central Asia and Oceania. Expert advice was also provided on drug demand surveys in Pakistan and West Africa.

60. Monitoring illicit manufacture of, trafficking in and use of amphetamine-type stimulants is an enormous challenge for many Governments, and functional systems for monitoring amphetamine-type stimulants are largely located in developed countries. The UNODC SMART programme assists Governments in East and South-East Asia, and since 2011 in Latin America, in the generation and analysis of data and reporting on those drugs. The Government of Mexico, in collaboration with UNODC, is setting up a monitoring system to estimate the amount of illicit cultivation and production of drugs, including opium and cannabis. UNODC is also building local research, data-collection and monitoring capacities in the countries affected by the trafficking of opiates originating in Afghanistan.

61. UNODC continues to assist Member States in enhancing the analytical work of laboratories, including the provision of support through the international quality assurance programme for the generation of quality, evidence-based data and scientific information on drugs and the precursors used in their manufacture, and in strengthening their capabilities to respond to analytical challenges posed by the diversity of new psychotropic substances. It is also developing a data-quality assurance framework and has started consultations with other international organizations to learn from existing practices.

62. The 2012 edition of the UNODC flagship publication, the *World Drug Report*, provides an overview of recent trends and the current situation in terms of production, trafficking and consumption and the consequences of illicit drug use in terms of treatment, drug-related diseases and drug-related deaths. It also presents a long-term perspective and looks at the main characteristics of the contemporary drug problem, the ways it has changed over the last few decades, the driving factors that have shaped that evolution and the directions it is likely to take in the future.

63. In addition, in July 2011 UNODC published an update of the analysis of the global situation regarding Afghan opiate trafficking flows, with a focus on precursor (acetic anhydride) trafficking to Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. Another report was issued in May 2012, describing the dynamics of the illicit opiate trade along the northern route from Afghanistan to Central Asia and the Russian Federation. Those reports are used by law enforcement institutions and UNODC initiatives such as the Paris Pact project and the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries.

64. In 2011, UNODC also started to research the market of cannabis seeds for illicit purposes, paying particular attention to the trade through the Internet.

65. UNODC continued to develop regional transnational organized crime threat assessments examining transnational criminal activities, including illicit drug production and trafficking. In October 2011, a report on Central Africa was published. Research work is ongoing for Central America and the Caribbean, East Asia and the Pacific, West Africa and East Africa. Particular attention is being paid to the growing need for interregional collaboration to combat transcontinental criminal threats and illicit networks.

VIII. Governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

66. At the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Member States welcomed the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC and stated that they looked forward to further discussions in the working group, including on the regional and thematic programmes of the Office. During the past year, the working group played an important role in preparing action by the governing bodies of the Office in key areas, including strategic and budgetary matters, the programmatic work, evaluation and oversight, as well as its financial situation.

67. Within the working group, Member States achieved consensus on the UNODC strategy for the period 2012-2015, which the Secretariat had developed in consultation with Member States. The strategy was recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at their reconvened sessions in December 2011, to the Economic and Social Council for adoption. It will be implemented through the biennial programme plans for 2012-2013 and 2014-2015.

68. UNODC established interdivisional task forces that achieved significant progress in implementing the recommendations made by the Joint Inspection Unit (see JIU/REP/2010/10). The Office continued to streamline the results frameworks of UNODC programmes. Emphasis was placed on regular performance reports and reviews conducted by the programme review committee. An internal guidance note and a position paper were issued on the protection and promotion of human rights, and a human rights advisory group was established to advise the Executive Director on mainstreaming human rights into the activities of the Office.

69. UNODC continued developing integrated regional and country programmes to meet regional and national priorities and needs. Regional programmes currently cover East Africa, West Africa, Arab States, Central America, East Asia and the Pacific, South-Eastern Europe, and Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. New regional programmes for Southern Africa and South Asia will be launched in 2012. The programmes promote ownership by partner countries and partnership with the United Nations system and multilateral agencies. They create effective regional mechanisms for countering organized crime and trafficking, promote fair and effective criminal justice systems and support crime and drug abuse prevention activities, thus contributing to the integration of development, the rule of law and human rights through a holistic approach.

70. Evaluation is a key element in the activities of UNODC. Its Independent Evaluation Unit cooperates closely with all parts of the Office to ensure that all UNODC projects and programmes are evaluated, in particular country and regional programmes. Important developments during the reporting period include the evaluation of over 70 projects, two in-depth evaluations and a risk assessment. Evaluation reports, revised evaluation tools, guidelines and templates are available at a new website (www.unodc.org/unodc/en/evaluation/index.html). Further evaluations and integrated evaluation training sessions and the development of new tools are planned, including a tracking system of evaluation recommendations, a

tool to track evaluations from the entire UNODC project portfolio and an online training tool.

71. The financial situation of UNODC remained vulnerable. Less than 1 per cent of the regular budget of the United Nations is allocated to the Office. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/233, the Secretary-General submitted proposals in his proposed programme budget for 2012-2013 to ensure that UNODC had sufficient resources. As a result, the Assembly approved a small increase of $1.7 million under section 16 of the regular budget, from $39.2 million in the biennium 2010-2011 to $40.9 million in the biennium 2012-2013. The UNODC consolidated budget for the biennium 2012-2013 is $561.5 million, of which 15.3 per cent comes from regular budget funds[13] and $475.4 million from extrabudgetary resources.

72. In order to address the challenges linked to the financial situation of UNODC, a fundraising strategy was developed in consultation with Member States. It will be further considered by the intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the Office. The fundraising strategy focuses on the establishment of a multi-year funding framework and baseline for the thematic and regional programmes, possible funding mechanisms to sustain the core infrastructure and delivery capacity of the Office and organizational aspects for the effective coordination of the fundraising functions.

IX. Recommendations

73. It is recommended that the General Assembly consider taking the following action:

(a) Urge Member States that have not yet done so to adhere to the drug control conventions, and urge all States to fully implement all the provisions of the conventions, including with regard to effective regulatory controls and provision of information, in accordance with the conventions and subsequent resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;

(b) Urge Member States to take, in a timely manner, the measures necessary to implement the actions and attain the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

(c) Encourage Member States to give special consideration to the linkages between international drug control and development, especially in the context of preparations for the post-2015 development agenda and the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

(d) Urge Member States to continue to actively cooperate with the International Narcotics Control Board in the exercise of its mandate and to

[13] Includes regular budget resources contained in sections 1, 16, 23 and 29F of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

ensure that an appropriate level of resources is made available to the Board to enable it to engage with Governments to effectively monitor compliance by States with the drug control conventions;

Demand reduction and related measures

(e) Urge Member States to renew their efforts to increase the coverage of interventions to prevent drug use and to increase access to services for the treatment, care and rehabilitation of people suffering from drug dependence that are based on scientific evidence, gender-responsiveness, human rights and the dignity of the patients;

(f) Request UNODC to continue gathering information on national and international experiences and best practices on drug prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation, to make available information on activities and instruments based on scientific evidence and to provide States with guidance and assistance in developing strategies and programmes to incorporate those successful experiences, upon request and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

(g) Urge Member States to increase the levels of coverage of interventions, as outlined in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the 2009 *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users*;

Drug control, supply reduction and related measures

(h) Encourage Governments to establish specialized inter-agency units at national ports and container terminals dedicated to the targeting, profiling and selection of suspicious containers, as a first step towards better border management and trade security;

(i) Encourage Member States to monitor emerging trends in the composition, production and distribution of new psychoactive substances, as well as patterns of use of those substances;

(j) Request Member States to strengthen close cooperation with all relevant international agencies and national drug-testing laboratories in building an international early warning advisory system as a first step in effectively addressing the challenges posed from the potential abuse of, and trafficking in, synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists and other new psychoactive substances;

(k) Request UNODC to continue to assist Member States in their establishment of sustainable mechanisms for the timely sharing of pertinent information at the international level relating to changes occurring in the markets for amphetamine-type stimulants;

Sustainable crop control strategies targeting the illicit cultivation of crops

(l) Support UNODC in its efforts to increase the level of support provided to small, rural farming communities engaged in illicit crop cultivation and recommend that the international financial institutions incorporate

development-oriented drug control within their poverty reduction strategies and country assistance strategies;

Countering money-laundering

(m) Encourage Member States to:

(i) Fully implement and enforce international standards and legal and regulatory frameworks to prevent money-laundering and to recover illicit assets;

(ii) Ensure that they have adequate domestic legislative frameworks to criminalize the laundering of money derived from drug trafficking, precursor diversion and other serious crimes of a transnational nature;

(iii) Strengthen financial and regulatory regimes for banks and non-bank financial institutions;

(iv) Implement effective detection, investigation, prosecution and conviction measures for money-laundering and related crimes;

(v) Promote effective cooperation by strengthening mechanisms for domestic inter-agency coordination and information-sharing, and also by strengthening regional and international networks for the exchange of operational information among competent authorities, in particular financial intelligence units;

(vi) Utilize the tools developed by UNODC to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, such as the model laws, the International Money-Laundering Information Network and computer-based training;

Promoting judicial cooperation

(n) Encourage Member States to:

(i) Continue entering into bilateral or multilateral agreements on mutual legal assistance and extradition to promote judicial cooperation and to strengthen international cooperation;

(ii) Improve information-sharing tools and mechanisms to enhance coordination within national judicial systems, as well as expand cooperation at the regional and international levels;

(iii) Utilize international cooperation tools developed by UNODC and available on the UNODC website, such as the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool, model laws and the online legal library;

Data collection and research

(o) Urge Member States to reiterate that the information available on illicit drug use trends in many regions and countries is not adequate to provide a sound base for analysis or to support policy development;

(p) Urge Member States to emphasize that the capacity of drug control authorities in many countries to collect accurate, reliable and comparable data and information on illicit drug production, trafficking and use at the national

level could be improved, with a view to increasing the capacity of Member States to provide information through mandated data-collection tools such as the annual report questionnaire and the individual drug seizure report;

(q) Request UNODC to strengthen the collection and dissemination of accurate, reliable and comparable data and information to enhance knowledge on illicit drug trends, including by building the capacity of Member States to provide data through the mandated data-collection tools for the Office to prepare trend analyses and studies based on the available information;

(r) Urge the international community to further develop multilateral strategies against specific transnational organized criminal markets on the basis of international threat assessments and joint response planning;

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(s) Encourage Member States and regional entities to draw on the technical assistance provided by UNODC through its regional and thematic programmes and to use those programmes as vehicles for increasing regional and international cooperation to promote the rule of law and counter transnational threats such as organized crime and trafficking;

(t) Encourage Member States to address, as a matter of urgency, the need to provide UNODC with adequate, predictable and stable resources, including additional regular budget resources, to enable it to implement its mandated work in a sustainable manner and to provide the necessary voluntary contributions to enable the Office to effectively respond to the increasing demand for technical assistance.